(c) The percentages of representation of SCs|STs during the last three years are as follows:

Group A (Class-I)

Year	%age of SCs	%age STs
1984-85	10 8	2 69
1985-86	11.4	2.76
1986-87	11.0	2.95

Group B (Class-II)

Year	%age of SCs	%age of STs
1984-85	13 2	2 88
1985-86	14.9	3.04
1986-87	15 4	3 25

There is steady increase in the representation of SCs|STs except for slight decrease in the representation of SCs in 1986-87 in Group A, due to retirements.

Sati committed by a woman in U.P.

984. SHRI NARAYAN KAR:
SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a 28 years old woman has committed Sati in Kheria Mishra village in Lalitpur district in Uttar Pradesh on 10th January, 1988; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) It was reported in the Press on the 12th of January, 1988 a twenty eight year old woman had reportedly committed Sati in Kheria Mishra village in Lalitpur district in Uttar Pradesh on the 10th January, 1988.

The State Government of U.P., which had promptly initiated investigation into the matter, reported on the 14th January that the investigations made so far reveal that the incident was not an act of Sati. However, the Criminal Investigation Department of the State Government has started further investigation of the case, which is in progress.

Delhi population having iodine deficiency

985. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appeared in the Hindustan Times of 19th January, 1988 under the caption "One third Delhites iodine-deficient";

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether the Government propose to earmark special funds for this purpose and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Yes, the Government has seen the news item appeared in the Hindustan Times of 19th January, 1988.

Sample surveys conducted by the Directorate General of Health Services have revealed that nearly 29 per cent of the population examined, suffered from iodine

deficiency disorders. The All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi had also conducted a survey in the Chandni Chowk and Kalkaji areas which revealed that about 55 per cent of the school children examined have suffered from various iodine deficiency disorders. Yet another survey conducted by the Institute of Nuclear Medicine & Allied Sciences showed that 20 per cent of the shool children examined by them suffered from various grades of Goitre and other iodine deficiency disorders.

(c) Intake of iodised salt is the simple and cheapest method for the control of Goitre and other iodine deficiency disorders. Adequate quantity of iodised salt is being provided to the Union Territory of Delhi. During the year 1987, a quantity of 97,430 MTs of iodised salt has been supplied against an estimated requirement of 42,800 MTs, to Delhi. In addition, financial assistance of Rs. 2.00 lakhs has been allocated to the Union Territory of Delhi for establishment of Goitre Control Cell and to undertake health education on Goitre under National Goitre Control Programme.

Representation made by Railway pensioners

986. SHRI T. R. BALU:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation was made by the Railway pensioners for sanction of companion instead of 'Attendant' in their first class Post Retirement Privilege Passes; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This was considered but could not be accepted.

Amount spent on Pamban bridge

987. SHRI T. R. BALU:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allotted for Pamban bridge during the current year;

(b) the amount of money spent so far; and

(c) by when the bridge is expected to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Rs. 375.00 lakhs.

(b) Upto 31.1.1988 a sum of Rs. 307.55 lakhs has been spent during the current financial year.

(c) The bridge is expected to be completed by June, 1988.

MBBS students on strike in AIIMS

988. SHRI SHARAD YADAV:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the MBBS students of AIIMS have recently gone on indefinite strike; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to resolve the issue involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Yes, the students of A.I.I.M.S. were on strike from 2-9-1988 to 22.2.1988 in support of their demands relating to supplementary examinations, attendance and admission to first year MBBS course. They have since called off the strike after all amicable settlement of the issues.